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SPINAL ANÆSTHESIA.

A REPORT OF THE DEMONSTRATION GIVEN BY PROFESSOR THOMAS
JONNESCO OF BUCHAREST AT THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL,
NEW YORK.

BY

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Since the Congress of the International Society of Surgery, held in Brussels, in September, 1908, the medical world has become more or less familiar with the name of Professor Thomas Jonnesco of Bucharest—with his name and with his work on spinal anæsthesia. For it was at this Congress that Jonnesco first submitted, in extenso, his report of 617 cases of spinal anæsthesia and at the same time instituted a claim to pioneer achievement both in the method of his procedure and in the choice and combination of his drugs. During this past intervening year Jonnesco has been certainly industrious: the 617 operative cases have now risen to 1015, his speech has been frequent and free, and he has travelled far. With Bier of Berlin he is now joined in controversial issue, while Vienna, Berlin, Paris, and London have all submitted to a demonstration of his method. Last week he was in New York, and the story of his spinal anæsthesia in his own words reads as follows:—

“1015 administrations, including operations upon all parts of the body, without a death or even serious misadventure. Among these are 14 on the skull and 68 on the neck and face. General spinal anæsthesia is absolutely safe: the fear of pricking the cord is unfounded; even if this happens it is not harmful, and I am firmly convinced that, being infinitely superior to inhalation anæsthesia, it will shortly become the universal practice.”

With the reading of such a text can we wonder that William Mayo journeyed down from Rochester to New York, or marvel that there rises for the medical profession the question of a new star risen again in the East?

I was fortunate enough to be present at a demonstration given by Jonnesco at the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, on Thursday.